

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An elevator counterweight for connection to an elevator car by flexible support means and movable along counterweight guide rails comprising:

a counterweight frame adapted to be connected to the flexible support means and moved along the counterweight guide rails;

a plurality of weight elements fixed in said frame;

upper and lower guide shoes attached to said frame and adapted to engage the counterweight guide rails; and

said frame including at least four vertical beams spaced over a width of said frame and at least three horizontal crossbars attached to said vertical beams, said beams and said crossbars forming ~~a plurality of~~ at least four grid fields adapted to receive said weight elements with said weight elements being fixed in at least one of said grid fields.

2. (Currently Amended) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein a first one of said crossbars terminates said frame at a top, a second one of said crossbars terminates said frame at a bottom and a third one of said crossbars is arranged between said first and second crossbars, each outermost one of said beams extending only from said first crossbar to said ~~second~~ third crossbar so that a lower left-hand one of said grids and a lower right-hand one of said grids are open at a respective left-hand side and right-hand side, said lower guide shoes being mounted in said lower left-hand grid and said lower right-hand grid.

3. (Currently Amended) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said third crossbar is fastened to said beams in a selected ~~on~~ one of two vertically spaced positions to determine a height of said lower left-hand grid and said lower right-hand grid.

4. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said beams and said crossbars are arranged in a common plane.

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2

5. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said beams penetrate said crossbars and are connected with said crossbars at penetration locations.

6. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said beams are formed with profile members having a U-shaped cross-section.

7. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said lower guide shoes are attached to an upper surface of a lowermost one of said crossbars.

8. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein safety brake devices are attached to a lower surface of an intermediate one of said crossbars.

9. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said beams prevent horizontal movement of said weight elements in said grids.

10. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said weight elements are formed as rectangular blocks.

11. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein said beams are spaced to define a first width for a first portion of said grid fields and a second width different from said first width for at least a second portion of said grid fields.

12. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 1 wherein each said crossbar includes two crossbar plates arranged in parallel vertical planes spaced apart a width of said crossbar and between which said beams are fixed, each said crossbar plate having at approximately half height several horizontal slots formed therein in which horizontal welding plates connecting said crossbar plates are welded such that vertical passage openings are left open for receiving said beams, and wherein said crossbar plates have in a region of said beams vertical slots formed therein in which vertical welding plates connecting said crossbar plates are welded so that said beams are laterally fixed thereto.

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3

13. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 12 wherein said vertical welding plates and said beams have horizontal slots formed therein through which horizontal securing plates extend above and/or below said horizontal welding plates, each said securing plate overlapping an associated one of said welding plates.

14. (Currently Amended) The elevator counterweight according to claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein an uppermost and/or lowermost one of said crossbars has a center horizontal welding plate for fastening support means or weight compensating means.

15. (Currently Amended) An elevator counterweight for use in an elevator installation comprising:

a counterweight frame including a first plurality of vertical beams spaced over a width of said frame and a second plurality of horizontal crossbars attached to said vertical beams, said beams and said crossbars forming a plurality of grid fields including a lower right-hand grid open at a right side thereof and a lower left-hand grid open at a left side thereof;

a at least one weight element fixed in one of said grids other than said lower right-hand grid and said lower left-hand grid; and

a pair of lower guide shoes attached to said frame and adapted to engage the counterweight guide rails, one of said guides shoes being positioned in said lower right-hand grid and another of said guides shoes being positioned in said lower left-hand grid.

16. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 15 wherein said lower guide shoes are attached to an upper surface of a lowermost one of said crossbars.

17. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 15 wherein safety brake devices are positioned in said lower right-hand grid and said lower left-hand grid and are attached to a lower surface of an intermediate one of said crossbars.

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4

18. (Original) The elevator counterweight according to claim 15 wherein said beams and said crossbars are arranged in a common plane.

19. (New) An elevator counterweight for connection to an elevator car by flexible support means and movable along counterweight guide rails comprising:

a counterweight frame adapted to be connected to the flexible support means and moved along the counterweight guide rails;

a plurality of weight elements fixed in said frame;

upper and lower guide shoes attached to said frame and adapted to engage the counterweight guide rails; and

said frame including at least four vertical beams spaced over a width of said frame and at least three horizontal crossbars attached to said vertical beams, said beams and said crossbars forming a plurality of grid fields with said weight elements being fixed in at least one of said grid fields, wherein each said crossbar includes two crossbar plates arranged in parallel vertical planes spaced apart a width of said crossbar and between which said beams are fixed, each said crossbar plate having at approximately half height several horizontal slots formed therein in which horizontal welding plates connecting said crossbar plates are welded such that vertical passage openings are left open for receiving said beams, and wherein said crossbar plates have in a region of said beams vertical slots formed therein in which vertical welding plates connecting said crossbar plates are welded so that said beams are laterally fixed thereto.

20. (New) The elevator counterweight according to claim 19 wherein said vertical welding plates and said beams have horizontal slots formed therein through which horizontal securing plates extend above and/or below said horizontal welding plates, each said securing plate overlapping an associated one of said welding plates.